



The Brae Newsletter

Spring 2017

A very Happy New Year, and welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. We left 2016 on a massive high, with our Brae Christmas Play and Volunteer Fun Afternoon being such huge successes and we were so happy to see so many people in the centre enjoying the Christmas festivities. We started 2017 with the sad news that Andi Bruce, our Chief Instructor is leaving us at the end of January to venture into pastures new with her partner David at their new pub and restaurant. Andi will be missed so much by all staff, volunteers and riders and has brought a tremendous amount to The Brae in the 6 years she has been with us. We wish Andi and David all the very best for a fantastic business future together. We are busy trying to recruit a replacement for Andi and will hopefully have someone in post as soon as possible, so please bear with us. Thank you all for continuing to support the wonderful work at The Brae, and we wish you all a very peaceful 2017.

Mary Sneddon, Centre Manager

Our Fundraising starts this year with:



The Brae Beetle Drive

Friday 24th February - 7pm
St Aidans Church Hall, Brook Street, Broughty Ferry
Tickets Adults £5 & Kids £2.50.

The Brae Fundraising Dinner

Wednesday, 8th March
Kingsway College
Tickets £25 for 4 Courses

The Rotary Swimathon

19th February
The New Olympia



The Brae Christmas Play & Volunteer Fun Afternoon

Saturday the 17th December was such a fun day at The Brae. We welcomed 200 people to the centre to watch our Christmas play about a Brae Christmas tree. Our horses were dressed up as fir, oak and birch trees, and Santa came and handed out treats to the children while we all had a lovely festive singsong.

We then treated our volunteers to a sit-down Christmas dinner served by our own Brae staff. Everyone loved the food that was homemade by staff and other Volunteers. We had Christmas tablecloths, napkins and crackers and finished the day with some hilarious games.

We can't wait to start planning for this year!



THANK YOU EVERYONE

We are so very grateful to everyone who has given their support to The Brae and helped us with raising funds. The end of 2016 and beginning of 2017 has been amazing with donations from lots of different sources including: Greggs Foundation & Broughty Ferry Branch, Starbucks St Andrews, Handmade for Charity, Yorkshire Building Society, University of Dundee IT Dept, BT Give as you Earn, McAlan & Paterson, McKenzie & McKenzie, YPI Team Carnoustie HS, Axis Shield, Sheriff Court Tea Bar, HMRC, The Occidental, DC Thomsons Enterprise Dept, The Boars Rock, CACE Short Walks Group, The Graham Trust, The Maltmen Incorporation of Dundee, DCC Neighbourhood Services, Liveries @ Rowanlwea Riding School, Elanco, Dundee & District Victulars Golf Club, Barnhill Tots & Toddlers, Claverhouse Rotary Club, Dundee Sportsmans Dinner, The Mackinnon Centre, Sunshine Hour Group, Dundee Foster Carers and many many individuals.

Horse News - Meet Paddy



We are delighted to introduce Paddy McGinty, who is the newest member of The Brae Team following the sad loss of Blue in December. Paddy is 10 years old and a skewbald (brown & white) Irish Cob. He is settling in nicely with the other ponies and is already a huge hit with the volunteers. Paddy is training to be another carriage driving pony and is the only horse at The Brae who is not black or white, so keep your eyes peeled for him the next time you are here.



We were very very sad that Blue had to leave us for the horse rainbow in the sky in December. Blue was very popular with everyone and we miss him very much.



We had a very mischievous visitor for the month of December by the name of Braedy Trotter The Brae Elf. Braedy kept us all amused with his daily antics, especially when he got the horses involved. We saw Braedy cleaning the yard, answering The Brae telephone, riding the horses and lots of other funny goings-ons. Braedy left us on Christmas Eve after having his picture taken with Prince before riding off into the sunset on his very own Brae pony. We are all hoping that Braedy will make a comeback this year.



AWARD NEWS - One of our volunteers, Jacob Dudgeon, nominated The Brae for the "Community Group of the Year" category of the Evening Telegraph Community Spirit Awards. We are absolutely delighted to have made the shortlist and Mary, Jacob, Yvonne (director) & Liz (rider) will be going to the ceremony, which takes place on the 10th of February, to hear if we have won. We are all keeping our fingers and toes crossed and will keep you posted.



Volunteering - 2016 was a very busy year on the volunteer front with 90 new people starting with us. We are so grateful to everyone who decided to give up their time to join us and to those who have been here for even longer too! As well as welcoming lots of new people, we said goodbye to 72 volunteers who left for a variety of reasons. We recruited volunteers in lots of different ways last year, through our facebook page and website, the press and, latterly, the fantastic feature on STV news.

Our current number of volunteers is 177 - sounds like loads, doesn't it? In actual fact, we are looking to recruit more volunteers to support our weekday sessions. If you (or someone you know) have a morning or afternoon free during the week, please get in touch with Emma - volunteercoordinator@brae.org.uk No experience is needed as full training is given. Being a 'stable and lesson assistant' is extremely rewarding and also lots of fun, great exercise and much cheaper than a monthly gym pass.

Lessons - if you cannot make your riding lesson, please call us as soon as possible on 01382 776880

